Decline in Steel Exports

†4356. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of steel has came down during the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the export of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In terms of quantity, export of steel has declined during the year 2004-05. The reason for the decline in export is the gap between domestic demand for and supply of steel. While the total steel production in April-December 2004-05 was up by only about 4%, the consumption increased by 6%. The gap was bridged by import of steel.

With a view to maintaining competitiveness in the export of steel, the Government has revoked the suspension of DEPB rates on steel items with effect from 12th July 2004 vide Public Notice 71.

Closure of Major, Medium and SSIs

4357. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of major, medium and small scale industries which have been closed or on the verge of closure for the last three years;

(b) the effective steps being taken to revive these industries in National interest; and

(c) the number of sick industries that were revived during the last year and the number of industries to be revived during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The State-wise number of units reported closed during the last three years is at Statement (*See below*).

(b) Besides providing a policy regime that facilitates and fosters growth

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and development of industry, steps undertaken by the Government for revival of sick industrial units *inter-alia* include setting up fo the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), issue of guidelines by the Reserve Bank of India to banks for financial support and amalgamation of sick units with healthy units. Rehabilitation schemes *inter-alia* include restructuring of the capital, relief and concessions by Financial Institutions, Banks/Government by rescheduling of dues, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, Government assistane for public sector units, merger with other companies and change of management.

(c) Information is being collected.

Statement

State-wise no. of unit reported be closed during the last three years

S.N.	State/Union Territory	Number of units closed		
		2002	2003	2004(P)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	2	1
2.	Bihar	0	2	1
3.	Delhi	1	3	0
4.	Gpa	1	2	1
5.	Gujarat	37	39	18
6.	Haryana	4	2	4
7.	Himachal Pradesh	6	-	1
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	3	1
9.	Jharkhand	4	6	3
10.	Karnataka	10	6	8
11.	Kerala	8	5	4
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	0	0
13.	Manipur	0	1	0
14.	Maharashtra	3	0	0
15	Orissa	4	3	1

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Punjab	1	0	0
17.	Rajasthan	5	3	1
18.	Tripura	25	22	101
19.	Uttar Pradesh	93	15	13
20.	West Bengal	1	3	0
21	Chandigarh	1	0	0
22.	Pondicherry	4	6	0
	TOTAL:	213	123	158

Source: Labour Bureau, Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Shimla

(P) Provisional

Plight of farmers and small trades under new laws

†4358. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new laws which the Government of India propose to bring forward under the influence of multinational companies, W.T.O. and World Bank, may restrict the freedom of seed and grain of the Indian farmers;

(b) if so, whether these efforts may entrap the small industries, farmers and traders in a neo-license regime and inspector regime and whether the new laws may prove to be dangerous for the farmers seed and grains freedom; and

(c) if so, the measures Government are likely to take to protect the farmers, small traders and industries from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Government of India is not contemplating to bring forward any new law under the influence of multinational companies, WTO or the World Bank to restrict the freedom of seed and grain of the Indian farmers. However, a New Seeds Bill, 2004 is proposed to replace the existing Seeds Act.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.